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RURAL DISTRICT OF BRACKLEY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year 1955



ARTHUR LUCAS

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ARTHUR LUCAS

**To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District
Council of Brackley.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Once more I have the honour to present my Sixth Annual Report for the year 1955.

As before the general statistics agree generally with those of the rest of the country and there was only one death from an infectious disease, namely whooping cough.

Your Sanitary Inspectors, Mr Turbitt and Mr. Caley, have been busy during the past year with the representation of unfit houses and the Housing Committee have been very active in dealing with them. Apart from a few problem families, the housing needs should be met in the next two or three years and all the huts now in use cleared.

The welfare clinics in this area have been well attended and one hopes in the near future that when poliomyelitis vaccination commences this will be taken advantage of by all parents.

Again I have to thank Mr. Turbitt, Mr. Caley and Miss Canning for their help and advice, also that of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR LUCAS, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Dept.,
Rural District Council Offices,
Brackley Lodge,
Brackley, Northants.
June, 1956

BRACKLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council:

J. N. Gibbard, Esq., J.P.

Vice Chairman of the Council:

Rev. H. J. Boyd.

Members of the Public Health Committee:

**Lt. Col. V. G. Toler-Aylward (Chairman), E. H. Barker,
L. S. Prosser, Lt. Gen. Sir B. N. Sergison-Brooke, Mrs. M. E.
Johnson, Mrs. L. Acrid (Vice Chairman), Capt. G. W. M. Lees,
H. S. Bartlett, L. C. Bartlett, and W. A. N. Scott.**

The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council are ex-officio members of the Public Health Committee.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

Medical Officer of Health:

Arthur Lucas, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Also holds appointments of:—

Medical Officer of Health in the Brackley Borough.

Medical Officer of Health in the Towcester R.D.C.

Medical Officer of Health in the Northampton R.D.C.

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, Northants County Council.

School Medical Officer, Northants County Council.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

W. E. Turbitt, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

N. R. Caley, A.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

Clerk to the Sanitary Inspectors:

Miss Phyllis Canning.

Rodent Operative:

W. G. Bartlett.

SECTION A.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA AND STATISTICS

Summary of Vital Statistics, 1955.

Area in acres	58,132
Population	10,400
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1955...	3,495
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1955	£41,019
Product of a penny rate at 31st March, 1955	£156.14.7

Live Births

	Total	Male	Female	(per 1000 population)	England & Wales	Northamp- tonshire
Legitimate	177	92	85			
Illegitimate	11	5	6			
				19.0	15.0	15.49
Total	188	97	91			

Stillbirths

Legitimate	3	2	1			
Illegitimate	—	—	—			
				15.4	23.1	24.03
Total	3	2	1			

Deaths	113	56	57	10.7	11.7	11.38
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Deaths from puerperal causes

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
Other puerperal causes	Nil

Infant Mortality—per 1,000 live births

Legitimate	2	1	1			
Illegitimate	—	—	—			
				10.1	24.9	20.79
Total	2	1	1			

Deaths from	Cancer (all ages)	25
„	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil
„	Measles	Nil
„	Whooping Cough	1
„	Infectious Diseases	1
„	Tuberculosis	Nil

The registered causes of death were:—

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Totals
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	1	—	1
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping cough	1	—	1
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infectious and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	4	5
11. Malignant neoplasm lung, bronchus ...	3	1	4
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	5	5
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	6	9
15. Leukæmia, alukæmia	1	—	1
16. Diabetes	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesion of the nervous system ...	7	8	15
18. Coronary disease, angina	12	7	19
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	1	1
20. Other heart diseases	8	6	14
21. Other circulatory diseases	1	2	3
22. Influenza	—	1	1
23. Pneumonia	3	2	5
24. Bronchitis	3	4	7
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	1	—	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	—	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	—	2	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	3	3	6
33. Motor vehicle accidents	3	—	3
34. All other accidents	2	1	3
35. Suicide	—	1	1
36. Homicidal and operations of war	—	—	—
Totals	56	57	113

Population. The population figures as supplied by the Registrar General for the past ten years are as follows :—

1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
8,980	9,150	9,320	9,482	9,647	9,930	10,220	10,320	10,340	10,400

The natural increase in population, or the excess of births over deaths, was 75.

It will be observed that over the 10 years the population of the district has increased by 1420.

Death Rate 1946—1955

Year	Brackley			Recorded Rate	Northamptonshire	England and Wales
	Total	M.	F.			
1946	100	46	54	11.13	12.00	11.50
1947	149	85	64	16.28	12.43	12.00
1948	97	53	44	10.4	11.00	10.8
1949	124	62	62	13.0	12.07	11.7
1950	124	66	58	13.0	12.01	11.6
1951	127	71	56	12.7	12.13	12.5
1952	92	61	31	9.00	11.04	11.3
1953	97	48	49	9.3	11.51	11.4
1954	94	46	48	9.09	11.04	11.3
1955	113	56	57	10.7	11.38	11.7

Birth Rate 1946—1955

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Brackley	22.5	20.44	21.9	17.9	20.2	16.5	18.6	16.2	20.8	19.0
Northamptonshire	19.17	20.42	17.46	16.19	15.71	15.57	15.50	16.16	16.20	15.49
England and Wales	19.1	20.5	17.9	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3	15.5	18.3	15.0

Births. The number of live births assigned to this district was 188 compared with 212 in 1954. The birth rate for 1955 of ~~15.49~~ 19.0 is ~~4.59~~ per thousand less than the rate for 1954 and slightly higher than the rate 15.00 for England and Wales.

Still-Birth Rate, 1955

Still-Births. There were 3 still-births during 1955.

Illegitimate Births. There were 11 illegitimate births assigned to the district in 1955 (5 males, 6 females).

Infant Mortality Rate, 1946—1955

Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Brackley	44.5	42.78	29.27	29.8	20.8	30.4	20.3	47.6	28.3	10.1
Northamptonshire	36.86	35.07	31.67	33.78	29.53	25.26	24.96	—	23.9	20.79
England and Wales	43.00	41.00	34.00	32.00	29.8	29.6	27.6	26.8	25.5	24.9

The number of children who died before reaching their first birthday was 2.

Maternal Mortality. It is pleasing to note that again in 1955 there were no deaths from Puerperal Causes, or conditions allied to childbirth.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services.

(a) Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory Service, Oxford, examine all swabs submitted by General Practitioners in the area and have also undertaken the examination of milk, ice cream and water samples and other specimens submitted from this district. The service is entirely free.

(b) Nursing in The Home

The County Council now provide "Nursing in the Home" services and also arrange for "Home Help" where possible. Some fairly full information on the latest development in the home nursing service may be seen upon reference to the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

(c) Clinic and Treatment Centres

Infant Welfare—Brackley	} Organised by County Council
Orthopædic Clinic	
Vision Clinic	
Infant Welfare Clinic, Middleton Cheney	

(d) Blind Persons

Incidence of blindness is reported on in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

(e) Tuberculosis

The preventive and after-care services as a means of controlling tuberculosis are administered by the County Council.

(f) Dental Treatment

Details of dental treatment performed in this area may be seen on reference to the report by the Senior Dental Officer for the County which is incorporated in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

(g) Epileptics and Spastics

The County Council are responsible for any facilities available for treatment of these conditions.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water Supply and Drainage.

The sanitary circumstances of the district have changed remarkably during the past 15 years. During this time each village has been provided with an adequate and safe supply of piped water. The water is available to most of those who desire to use it and is in fact being used for drinking and domestic purposes by most of the population.

Much progress has also been achieved in regard to sewerage and sewage disposal. The majority of the parishes are well served in this direction and it is hoped that the Government will be able to allow the Council to complete its programme for the whole of the district.

Adequate provision in regard to water supply, drainage and sewerage has made it possible for the installation of 125 water closets, 180 sinks and 90 baths during the year. This means that life has been made pleasanter and easier for numbers of persons. There were 863 premises provided with mains water during 1955 and altogether there are no less than 2563 dwellings now served with mains water.

Today there are considerably less watercourses polluted by drainage effluents which are now able safely to be discharged by means of proper drainage into efficient sewers. This greatly assists in the risk of fly-borne and rodent infection which was always a very real possibility in the days of open ditches and watercourses being used for the reception of faecal matter. The cost of providing efficient sanitary circumstances pays rich dividends in playing a major role in the prevention of the spread of disease on the one hand, and the promotion of public health on the other hand.

At the time when this particular section of my report is being written the demand for water begins to build up and the warning notices go out.

The summer and winter peaks cannot be ironed out; if they could be, about 1/5th of the treatment and pumping plant in the country would not be needed. Neither can the extra demand in summer be eliminated, although a house-by-house metering system, with payment for the amount used, might discourage excessive waste.

But the winter peak, which equals the summer, is not due to demand but to bad design.

When our houses are designed to retain heat, and pipes and fittings are protected from freezing, winter peaks, due to freeze-up losses, will be things of the past. Each year numerous gallons of water are wasted and much inconvenience caused through frost all of which could be prevented. The cost involved is very considerable.

The enthusiastic gardener who surreptitiously slips out at dusk during summer to revive the flagging lettuce may be sabotaging the water supplies. But is he any more guilty than those responsible for building our houses who, by slipshod work, lack of initiative or false economy, cause millions of gallons of water to be wasted every year?

Water Samples

Samples taken from the Regional Water Supply

PARISH	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
Aston le Walls	3	—	3
Aynho	13	10	23
Boddington	6	6	12
Chacombe	2	—	2
Charlton	10	1	11
Chipping Warden	3	—	3
Croughton	3	—	3
Culworth	2	—	2
Evenley	2	—	2
Eydon	2	—	2
Farthinghoe	2	—	2
Greatworth	3	1	4
Helmdon	8	1	9
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	2	—	2
Kings Sutton	6	—	6
Marston St. Lawrence	2	—	2
Middleton Cheney	4	—	4
Moreton Pinkney	2	—	2
Radstone	2	—	2
Sulgrave	2	2	4
Syresham	2	—	2
Thenford	4	—	4
Thorpe Mandeville	2	—	2
Whitfield	2	—	2
	89	21	110
	or 80.9%	or 19.1%	

Samples taken from Private Supplies

PARISH	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
Chacombe	—	1	1
Chipping Warden	—	1	1
Culworth	—	1	1
Evenley	2	2	4
Farthinghoe	—	2	2
Helmdon	2	2	4
Kings Sutton	1	1	2
Middleton Cheney	3	11	14
Radstone	1	1	2
Sulgrave	—	1	1
Syresham	2	4	6
Warkworth	2	5	7
	13 or 28·8%	32 or 71·1%	45

Sewerage.

Statement showing present condition of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal works in individual parishes

Modern	Adequate	Inadequate	No Works
Chacombe	Aynho	Aston-le-walls	Edgcote
Chipping Warden	Boddington	Evenley	Warkworth
Croughton	Culworth (1)	Farthinghoe	
Culworth (1)	Eydon	Helmdon	
Kings Sutton (2)	Marston St. Lawrence	Hinton-in-the-Hedges	
Moreton Pinkney	Middleton Cheney	Sulgrave (Part)	
Overthorpe	Charlton	Syresham	
Greatworth	Radstone		
Sulgrave (Part)	Thenford		
	Thorpe Mandeville		
	Whitfield		

It is hoped that further improvements will be made in regard to those parishes where the works are inadequate or do not exist at all.

Schools.

There are 21 schools in the district including a private school. All are visited from time to time by the public health staff usually in connection with the suitability of water and milk suppliers and the practice of food hygiene in the school canteens.

All milk supplied to these schools is now either pasteurised or tuberculin-tested which means that the children drink safe milk.

No less than 18 schools are served by the regional water scheme and I hope that the remaining 3 schools will also soon enjoy the safety and other advantages of the regional scheme

There are now only 2 schools without water-borne sanitation, both of which should soon be brought up-to-date in this respect.

The position at the end of the year as regards milk supply, water supply, sanitary circumstances and school meals is shewn in more detail in the following table, viz :—

SITUATION OF SCHOOL	Milk Supply		Water		Type of Closets		Drainage		School Meals	
	Pasteurised	Tuberculin Tested	Mains Supply	Non Mains	Water	Pail	To Sewer	To Septic Tank	Schools own canteen	Ex. Brackley Canteen
Aston Le Walls	x			x	x		x			
Aynho	x		x		x		x			x
Boddington Upper		x	x		x		x			
Chacombe	x		x		x		x			
Charlton	x		x		x		x			
Chipping Warden	x		x		x		x			
Croughton	x		x		x		x			x
Culworth	x		x		x		x			
Evenley	x		x		x		x			
Eydon	x		x		x		x			
Farthinghoe	x		x		x		x			
Greatworth	x		x		x		x			
Helmdon		x	x		x			x	x	
Kings Sutton	x		x		x		x			x
Marston St. Lawrence	x		x		x		x			
Middleton Cheney	x		x		x			x		x
Moreton Pinkney		x	x		x		x			
Overthorpe Hall	x			x	x			x	x	
Syresham	x		x			x			x	
Sulgrave	x		x		x		x			
Thorpe Mandeville	x			x		x				
Total	18	3	18	3	19	2	16	3	3	4

Shops and Offices

As in previous years all shops were visited at least once during the year. There are no offices requiring inspection.

Camping Sites

Quite unexpectedly the problems associated with caravan dwellers have appeared in this district.

There are now 17 moveable dwellings under licence by the Council. Quite a few of the vans "appear overnight" and if intending to stay over the statutory period allowed are usually licenced provided they satisfy public health requirements, particularly in regard to suitable water supply and sanitation.

An application was received for the licencing of a caravan site at Croughton, the dwellings to be occupied mainly by American servicemen and their families. Before granting a licence, the Council insisted on the site being properly laid out. Each caravan is parked on a concrete standing; drainage from the caravans is discharged into adjacent inspection chambers on the drainage system; mains water is supplied to each caravan by means of polythene tubing; sanitary dustbins are provided in each case and adequate water closets are available. If the owner of the site finds the project a paying proposition, as most likely he will, then it is to be expected that the Council will be asked to allow an increase in the number of caravans on the site. The site does lend itself for further development, but I am of the opinion that family life in a caravan, as a semi-permanent place of abode, is to be deprecated on health grounds as, especially during the winter months and other periods of inclement weather the occupants are apt to enclose themselves in an atmosphere which is far from being a healthy one and may be a predisposing factor to pulmonary tuberculosis or some other respiratory disorder.

Nomads and gipsies are fairly frequently seen in the district but with some exceptions give little or no trouble as they soon move on their way. This type of caravan dweller is sometimes employed in agricultural work by farmers who state that this kind of labour is useful and cheap. The consequent longer stay which is often necessary to enable these folk to complete their agricultural tasks gives one from time to time trouble from the public health aspect. In my opinion it is far better for the farmer to provide suitable housing accommodation which usually attracts the right type of agricultural worker as tenants.

Smoke Abatement

No trouble occurred in regard to atmospheric pollution.

Swimming Baths and Pools

No such places exist here.

Verminous Premises

No premises required treatment for vermin.

Summary of Sanitary Inspector's Visits to Premises during 1955.

Inspections—Housing Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	798
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	970
Inspections—Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	205
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Re-inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	304
No. of Public Health Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
No. of complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	183
Food Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Food Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Factory Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Factory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Factory Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14

Visits to:—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Provision Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	116
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Ice Cream Places	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Dining Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Infectious Disease enquiries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Drains re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
Drains partly re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	78

Statement of Sanitary and Housing Work completed during the Year 1955

Details of work completed:—

Dwelling Houses

Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Chimneys repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Eaves or Valley Gutters repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Rainwater Pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
External Walls pointed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dampness abated generally	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Wall Plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Ceiling Plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Walls redecorated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Ceilings redecorated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Firegrates or Ranges repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Staircases repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Handrails to Staircase provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Washing Coppers provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Sashcords provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Yards and Pavings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Through Ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Sub-floor Ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Lighting improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Food Store provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Outbuildings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Houses closed or demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Verminous Rooms disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Infected Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Water Supply laid on	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	863
Water Supply improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Wells closed when polluted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Wells repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Dwelling Houses cleansed (domestically)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Sanitary Conveniences

Pail Closets and Privies abolished	110
Water Closets provided	125
Closets repaired or renewed	2
New Closet Pans provided	1
New Sinks and Wash-hand Basins provided...	180
New Baths provided	90

Drainage

Drains cleared of obstructions	16
Drains repaired or renewed	14
Complete new Drainage installed	112
Drains connected to Sewer, Septic Tanks or Cesspool	112

Nuisances

Offensive Accumulations removed	13
Nuisances from keeping animals abated	3
Overcrowding abated	—
Smoke Nuisances abated	—
Miscellaneous Nuisances abated	4

Public Cleansing

A systematic collection of house refuse is in operation throughout the district.

The parishes are served as follows :—

Village	Date of collection	Refuse Tip
Kings Sutton	Alternate Thursdays	All refuse is now taken to Moreton Pinkney, Greatworth, Charlton or Helmdon.
Aynho	Alternate Fridays	
Middleton Cheney	Alternate Thursdays	
Chacombe	Second Tuesday in each month	
Chipping Warden	First Wednesday in each month	
Aston-le-Walls	First Monday in each month	
Boddington	First Monday in each month	
Eydon	Second Monday in each month	
Thenford	First Tuesday in each month	
Thorpe Mandeville	First Wednesday in each month	
Marston St. Lawrence	Second Tuesday in each month	
Culworth	First Wednesday in each month	
Moreton Pinkney	Second Monday in each month	
Greatworth	First Tuesday in each month	
Sulgrave	Second Wednesday in each month	
Helmdon	Second Wednesday in each month	
Radstone	Third Wednesday in each month	
Charlton	Third Tuesday in each month	
Croughton	Third Tuesday in each month	
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	First Tuesday in each month	
Evenley	First Tuesday in each month	
Whitfield	Third Wednesday in each month	
Syresham	Third Wednesday in each month	
Farthinghoe	Second Tuesday in each month	
Halse	First Tuesday in each month	

It is unfortunate that, on the grounds of economy, the Council are unable at the present time to institute a more frequent collection of house refuse. Nevertheless I trust the desirability for such a collection will not be lost sight of indefinitely.

Apart from unsightliness, the overflowing dustbins or the use of miscellaneous and often uncovered receptacles for storing house refuse are a menace to the health of the public.

Factories Act 1937 and 1948

The table below shows the position during 1955 so far as factories and workplaces are concerned together with the number of inspections made, also the number of notices served for any breach of the Acts.

Inspections

No. of premises on register	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
15	20	14	Nil.

Cases in which defects were found

Found	Remedied	Prosecutions
14	14	Nil.

Only one outworkers list was received. It was from the Metropolitan Borough of Finsbury concerning a worker in this district. The premises where the outworker was employed was found to be satisfactory for the nature of the work carried on therein.

SECTION D.

Housing.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act became Law in August 1954. Section 1 of this Act required every local authority within one year, to submit to the Minister of Housing and Local Government the authorities' proposals for dealing with houses which the authority considered to be unfit for human habitation.

This necessitated a comprehensive survey of the houses in the Rural District to ascertain the number of unfit dwellings. In consequence a great deal of the time of the Sanitary Inspectors was devoted to this work leaving less time than should be the usual practice available for visitation of other premises, notably those where food is dealt with. It was not possible to inspect in detail every house within one year, but every house about which there may have been some doubt as to its suitability for habitation was inspected. In deciding whether a house was or was not fit for habitation your Sanitary Inspectors inspected the condition of the houses in respect to the following matters :—

- (a) Repair.
- (b) Stability.
- (c) Freedom from damp.
- (d) Natural lighting.
- (e) Ventilation.
- (f) Water supply.
- (g) Drainage and Sanitary Conveniences.
- (h) Facilities for storage, preparation and cooking of food and for the disposal of waste water.
- (i) Internal arrangement.
- (j) The arrangement of the property with regard to adjoining properties.

The Housing Committee inspected all the houses reported as being unfit for habitation and the houses were finally classified as follows :—

	Number of Houses
A. Already in confirmed Clearance Areas but which were not demolished because of the war.	71
B. To be included in future Clearance Areas.	24
C. Already subject to Demolition Orders, Closing Orders or Undertakings.	24
D. Individual houses found to be unfit for habitation and not capable of being made fit at a reasonable expense and which may become the subject of Demolition Orders, Closing Orders and Undertakings.	93
E. Individual houses as in D above but owned by the occupiers or let to aged tenants or capable of conversion with adjoining properties. With regard to these houses it was decided that action could be deferred for the time being.	198
F. Temporary dwellings still occupied, in wartime camps.	66
	<hr/>
Total number of house found to be unfit for habitation	476
	<hr/>

The Councils proposals for dealing with these properties were submitted to the Minister on the 16th of August, 1955 and were later approved by him.

Briefly the proposals are as follows :—

- i. Estimated number of houses unfit for habitation.—476
- ii. Period, in years, which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of these houses (or the re-conditioning of them).—10 - 15 years
- iii. It was estimated that within the first 5 years (i.e. by August 1960) the Council could :—
 - (a) Secure the demolition of the 95 properties in the existing and the proposed Clearance Areas (Paras A and B).
 - (b) Re-house the tenants of the 66 wartime temporary dwellings (Para F).
 - (c) Take action under the Housing Acts to secure the demolition, closing or re-conditioning of 117 properties (Paras C and D).

It is obvious that any scheme of Slum Clearance and the progress of the scheme must depend on the ability of the Council to re-house some of the occupants of the unfit dwellings. Not all of the occupants will need to be re-housed in Council houses since a proportion of the unfit houses would be re-conditioned by the owners and will, therefore, be saved from demolition. However, if the majority of the "slums" are to be cleared within five years, the tenants of these houses must receive priority for new Council houses.

The Council did not fully embark on its Slum Clearance programme until the latter part of the year, the Minister's approval of the scheme being received on the 21st of October, 1955. However, during the year the owners of 18 unfit houses were asked to submit to the Council their proposals regarding the future of their properties with the following result :—

	Number of Properties
Owners failed to submit adequate proposals to make the houses fit for habitation and the Council made Demolition Orders or Closing Orders.	8
The Council accepted undertakings from the owners that the houses would not be used for habitation until the houses were re-conditioned or that the houses would be put to some other use.	8
Decision deferred until a later Committee Meeting. (In 1956).	2
	<hr/> 18 <hr/>

Improvement Grants

The Council this year approved application for Improvement Grants in respect of 70 properties. The total of the Council's contribution towards the re-conditioning of these properties amounted to £19,015.

This again is a notable increase on the previous years figures of 47 properties involving £11,348.

This is an economical and useful method of improving sub-standard houses which, otherwise, might have been the subject of compulsory slum clearance by the Council.

Statement of Housing Progress
(i.e., provision of new houses).

PARISHES	Pre-war and Wartime Housing Position						Post-war Housing Programme					
	Housing Act 1920.	Housing Act 1924.	Housing Act 1930.	Housing Acts 1935 and 1936	War-time Agr. Houses.	TOTAL.	Undeveloped Sites	Developed Sites Houses not begun	Houses on Tenders Apprd.	Houses under Construction.	Houses Completed	Total No. of Houses owned by Council.
Aston-le-Walls	—	—	—	16	—	16	—	—	—	—	5	21
Aynho	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	12	18	18
Boddingtons	—	4	—	—	2	6	—	—	—	—	13	19
Chacombe	—	—	3	14	—	17	—	—	—	—	11	28
Chipping Warden	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	45	45
Croughton	6	—	2	—	—	8	8	—	8	—	11	19
Culworth	6	—	5	10	—	21	—	—	—	—	21	42
Edgcote	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Evenley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	11
Eydon	8	—	—	4	—	12	2	—	—	—	9	21
Farthinghoe	2	—	6	—	2	10	—	—	16	16	4	14
Greatworth	8	—	8	—	—	16	16	—	8	8	15	31
Helmdon	8	—	—	8	—	16	40	—	—	—	10	26
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
Kings Sutton	18	—	8	40	—	66	70	—	26	26	85	151
Marston St. Lawrence	6	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	6	12
Middleton Cheney	20	—	22	30	—	72	67	—	18	18	104	176
Moreton Pinkney	—	—	—	8	—	8	—	—	—	—	9	17
Newbottle	6	—	12	—	—	18	60	—	—	—	13	31
Radstone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sulgrave	8	—	6	—	—	14	7	—	—	—	17	31
Syresham	10	—	4	24	—	38	—	—	2	2	31	69
Thenford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorpe Mandeville	6	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	6	12
Warkworth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
	112	4	76	154	4	350	270	—	90	82	456	806

**Details of Clearance Areas and Other Unfit Houses
dealt with in 1955.**

A. Houses Demolished.

	No. of Houses	Persons Displaced
(1) In Clearance Areas.	2	Nil
(2) Not in Clearance Areas	1	Nil

B. Unfit Houses closed.

3	10
---	----

C. Unfit Houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied.

	By Owner	By Council
After informal action by the Council.	66	Nil
After formal notice under :—		
(a) The Public Health Acts.	8	2
(b) The Housing Acts.	2	Nil

D. Unfit Houses in temporary use.

Licenced for temporary occupation under Section 6 Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954.	22
---	----

E. Houses purchased by the Council by Agreement.—Nil.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Foods.

Food Premises Generally.

Although the Council decided in 1954 to licence a private slaughterhouse at Chipping Warden and another at Kings Sutton, the owner of the former slaughterhouse apparently found it more economical to buy his meat killed and dressed from sources outside the district, and, apart from an occasional emergency slaughter, no slaughtering is now taking place at these premises. Because of the ill health of the owner of the other slaughterhouse, who actually performed the slaughtering himself, he was compelled to give up the work of killing and also obtained his meat already dressed from outside sources. The business has since changed hands but no slaughtering is taking place. Like the other premises this slaughterhouse might prove useful for an emergency killing. When the licences expire on the 31st July, 1957, the Council should consider whether renewals are justified if slaughtering is still not taking place at these two establishments.

As many visits as possible have been made to the various food premises but it should be remembered that for a considerable time during the year the attention of the staff was given to carrying out an extensive housing survey. Nevertheless, it has appeared that the food places have maintained a satisfactory standard in most respects. Now and again bad habits are observed by food handlers such as blowing in bags; finger licking; dirty finger nails, hands and clothing, whilst smoking is not least of the bad habits. Frequent visits to food places not only discover such habits but affords the staff of the health department an opportunity of trying to correct them. This, of course, requires some tact and diplomacy on the part of the staff.

All those interested in food hygiene are anxious to find out what help the promised Food Hygiene Regulations are likely to contain. These Regulations are likely to come into operation early in 1956.

A minor outbreak of what at the time was suspected as being due to food poisoning, occurred among the staff of a factory at Chipping Warden. Most of the staff take their mid-day meal in the factory canteen. Twenty-nine persons were affected on two consecutive days but none seriously.

The Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspectors made exhaustive enquiries to determine the cause but were hampered by the fact that there was nothing remaining of the suspected foods by the time they arrived at the factory canteen despite the investigation taking place immediately after notification had been given to the Health Department by the

Factory Medical Officer. Each case was interviewed and twenty-nine faeces samples were submitted to the laboratory for examination but the results were negative. The water supply was sampled and found satisfactory. Pasteurised milk was used at the canteen and was examined and also found to be satisfactory.

It can only be assumed that the cause of the illness was a virus infection.

The canteen kitchen and sanitary arrangements at the factory were inspected and several improvements were suggested.

All the persons affected made a fairly quick recovery to normal health.

Meat Inspection

The only animal carcasses inspected during the year were those slaughtered due to emergency reasons. Details of the number dealt with and the amount of meat condemned are as follows :—

Number of Animals Slaughtered	Quantity Condemned	Reason for Condemnation
2 Pigs	Pig's Carcase and Offal ... 50 lbs.	Fever
2 Sheep	Sheep's Pluck 4 lbs.	Oedema
1 Calf	Sheep's Pluck 4 lbs.	Ill Bled

Food Inspection

The following food was surrendered at the Health Department and destroyed :

11 lbs. 4 ozs. Cooked Ham due to decomposition.

Ice Cream Sampling

Due to the excessive amount of work directed to Housing it was possible only to take 24 samples for examination ; 17 were placed in Grade I., and 7 in Grade II. Both Grades are considered to be satisfactory as against Grades III. and IV. which refer to unsatisfactory samples.

Food & Drugs Sampling

The Northamptonshire County Council under powers conferred by the Food & Drugs Act 1938, took samples of

various foods, including milk, in this district during the year, details of which are as follows, viz :—

Milk	30
Condensed Milk	3
Ice Cream	2
Cream	1
Margarine	1
Butter	2
Ground Almonds	2
Corn Flour	1
Beef Sausage	1
Jam	3
Coffee	1
Baking Powder	1
Whisky	1
Lemonade	1
Total.....	<u>50</u>

Remarks

A sample of milk purchased from a producer contained at least 3·7% added water. A fine of £2 and £3 3s. costs were ordered to be paid. One other sample of milk was fractionally low in solids-not-fat (8·45 instead of 8·5%) but as it was the genuine product of the cow no action was necessary.

All the remaining samples were genuine and satisfactory in every way.

Note.—The milk samples were taken to ascertain the amount of butter fat, and solids other than fat, present in the milk.

Milk Sampling

Again because of the pressure of work in other directions only 22 samples of milk were taken and subjected to the Methylene Blue Test.

The results were :—

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised	10	Nil
Tuberculin-Tested	8	3
Ungraded	1	Nil

Note.—This test is to derermine the keeping quality of the milk and the hygienic conditions under which it was produced.

Details of Various Food Premises in the District as follows

	No. in District	No. of Visits
No. of Provision Shops	48	116
No. of Butchers Shops	9	53
No. of Dining Rooms	1	4
No. of Public Houses or Inns ...	40	47
No. of Bakehouses	8	18
No. of Milk Distributors	4	12
No. of Ice Cream Shops	31	66
No. of Fishmongers & Fish Fryers	2	11
No. of Greengrocers and fruiterers	7	13

Details of Repairs and Improvements of Food Premises

Bakehouses

Cleansed and Limewashed	18
Benches or Tables cleansed	10
Accumulations of Refuse removed	1
Proper Fuel Containers provided	1
Lighting or Ventilation improved	—
Structural Repairs carried out	—
Hot Water Supply provided	—

Dairies

Cleansed and Redecorated	8
Accumulations removed	2
Hot Water Supply provided for washing hands	—
Wash-hand Basins provided	—
Suitable Closet Accommodation provided	—
Unsatisfactory Dairies discontinued	1
New Dairies provided	—
Structural Repairs made	5

Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises

Hot Water Supply provided for washing hands	—
Suitable Closet Accommodation provided	—
Wash-hand Basins provided	—
Structural Repairs made	5
Metal Storage Bins provided	2
Apparatus and Utensils cleansed or improved	—
Lighting and Ventilation improved	1
Redecorated internally	10

Cafès and Public Houses

Hot Water Supply provided for washing hands	...	...	...	1
Suitable Closet Accommodation provided	...	...	...	—
Wash-hand Basins provided	...	...	...	3
Structural Repairs made	...	...	...	—
Metal Storage Bins provided	...	...	...	1
Apparatus and Utensils cleansed or improved	...	...	...	5
Lighting and Ventilation improved	...	...	...	—
Proper Urinal Accommodation provided	...	...	...	—
Bar Sink with hot and cold water provided	...	...	...	—
Redecorated Internally	...	...	...	5

SECTION F.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

There was a marked increase in the number of infectious diseases, 389 as against 29 for 1954. The increase was mainly due to an epidemic of measles—338 cases—which reached its peak during the month of May, whilst the disease was prevalent throughout the whole of the summer. There were also 46 cases of whooping cough. The cases of scarlet fever were all of a mild type and most of them occurring in Kings Sutton where it was discovered that a number of illnesses, most probably due to scarlet fever had in fact not been notified by the Medical Practitioner concerned.

An isolated case of poliomyelitis and one case of food poisoning were notified. Investigations were made in connection with each disease but without success in discovering the probable cause of the infections.

A child died due to whooping cough.

The details of vaccination and immunisation carried out in this district during the year are shewn in the following table :—

Vaccination

	(Under 1)	(1)	(2-4)	(5-14)	(15 or over)	Total
Primary	61	2	2	2	7	74
Re-vaccination	—	—	2	1	8	11

Diphtheria Immunisation

(Under 1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5-9)	(10-14)	Total	Booster
38	20	4	5	1	8	5	81	36

Whooping Cough Immunisation

	(Under 1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5-9)	(10-14)	Total
Whooping Cough only	2	1	—	2	—	3	—	8
Combined *Diphtheria Pertussis	66	28	15	5	—	2	—	116

*The combined diphtheria pertussis figures are included in the figures for diphtheria immunisation.

Number of Children who have completed a full Course of Diphtheria Immunisation

Age at 31.12.55	(Under 1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5-9)	(10-14)	
i.e. Born in year	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1946 1950	1941 1945	Total Under 15
Number immunised	9	98	93	102	95	628	586	1611

The incidence of diphtheria still continues to fall but I once more stress the importance of continued publicity by local authorities as to the advantages in the use of diphtheria prophylaxis so as to minimise complacency amongst parents of young children which may be caused by the astounding fall in the number of cases of this disease over the past ten years.

The following are figures for deaths and notifications for England and Wales since 1946 :

Year	Deaths	Corrected Notifications
1946	472	11,986
1947	244	5,609
1948	156	3,575
1949	84	1,890
1950	49	962
1951	33	664
1952	32	376
1953	23	266
1954	9	173
1955	11(provisional)	161(provisional)

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

IN INDIVIDUAL PARISHES

During the year, 1955.

PARISH	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Broncho Pneumonia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Poliomyelitis	Food Poisoning	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Puerperal Pyrexia	Totals
Aston-le-Walls	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Aynho	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Boddington	—	—	—	—	6	8	—	—	1	—	—	15
Chacombe	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Charlton	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Chipping Warden	—	—	—	—	8	5	—	—	1	—	—	14
Croughton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Culworth	1	—	1	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Edgcote	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Evenley	—	—	—	—	17	—	—	1	—	—	—	18
Eydon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Farthinghoe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greatworth	—	—	—	—	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	25
Helmdon	—	—	—	—	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	17
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Kings Sutton	6	—	—	—	101	2	—	—	—	—	—	109
Marston St. Lawrence	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Middleton Cheney	—	—	—	—	46	26	—	—	—	—	—	72
Moreton Pinkney	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Radstone	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Sulgrave	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syresham	1	—	—	—	56	2	1	—	—	—	—	60
Thenford	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Thorpe Mandeville	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Warkworth	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Whitfield	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
Total	9	—	1	—	338	46	1	1	2	—	—	398

Incidence of Infectious Diseases
Over the past 16 years (other than Tuberculosis)

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	Total
Scarlet Fever	35	25	18	13	12	10	7	5	6	1	3	—	3	16	8	9	171
Diphtheria	3	11	7	7	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32
Enteric Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	—	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	10
Pneumonia	4	5	4	3	4	2	1	3	2	—	2	6	4	3	2	1	46
Erysipelas	3	—	3	2	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	16
Ophthalmia Neon.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Cerebro-Spinal Men.	2	1	—	—	1	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Measles	245	120	10	104	6	116	13	49	137	17	29	134	23	152	4	338	1,497
Whooping Cough	12	50	6	4	54	12	2	8	12	8	7	28	6	22	15	46	292
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	6
Polio Encephalitis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	2	3	—	2	—	1	12
Catarrhal Jaundice	—	—	1	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Malaria	—	—	2	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Chicken Pox	—	—	—	3	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Jaundice	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	7	1	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	13
Mumps	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Amoebiasis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	311	213	54	144	92	154	27	68	164	27	48	172	37	197	29	398	2,135

Period Distribution of Notified Cases of Infectious Diseases—1955

A statement showing the period distribution of the cases notified is given hereunder.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Scarlet Fever	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	9
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Broncho Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles	—	1	2	36	110	76	57	47	5	4	—	—	338
Whooping Cough	—	—	12	16	11	4	2	—	1	—	—	—	46
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	6	2	14	54	122	80	59	47	7	4	2	1	398

Tuberculosis

There has been a decline in the number of new cases of tuberculosis notified, i.e., 7 as against 11 for the previous year. The new cases comprised 4 males and 3 females. Of these, 5 were of a respiratory nature (2 males, 3 females) and 2 females non-respiratory.

Again it has been unnecessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and employed in the milk trade, or to compulsory removal to hospital any person suffering from the disease as prescribed by section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

New Cases During 1955 :

New Cases					
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Age Periods	Years	Male	Female	Male	Female
0	— 1	—	—	—	—
1	— 5	—	—	1	—
5	— 15	—	—	1	—
15	— 25	1	1	—	—
25	— 35	1	—	—	—
35	— 45	—	1	—	—
55	— 65	—	1	—	—
65	and over	—	—	—	—
Total		2	3	2	0

RODENT CONTROL

There appeared a decrease in the rat population during the year.

It will be seen from the following figures that the Rodent Operative has continued to carry out rodent control throughout the district with encouraging success. He is well known to most of those whom he serves in his official capacity, which greatly assists in the smooth running of this important service which again, as in previous years, has been carried out in a manner which I felt convinced is satisfactory to all concerned.

All business premises are visited by the Rodent Operative and any necessary treatments are either performed or supervised by him. Private dwellings are also dealt with. An increasing number of farm premises are being treated by this Department. The Council's properties such as refuse tips, sewers and sewage disposal works receive periodic attention.

The extinction of the wild rabbit due to myxamatosis has so far not noticeably brought about any changes in the modes of living or habits of the rat.

Surface Infestations.

No. of complaints received	...	...	...	48
No. of premises inspected				
(private and business places)	...	...		116
No. of visits made	...	...	...	419
No. of premises cleared	...	...	...	116
No. of survey visits made	...	...	...	11
No. of rat bodies found	...	...	...	849

Quantity of Bait laid.

(a) Prebait	...	...	...	1,163 lbs. 8 ozs.
(b) Poison bait	...	...		66 lbs. 1½ ozs.

Total Number of Bodies Found

(1) Rats	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,046
(2) Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	221

Sewer Infestations

	No. of Manholes baited	No. Shewing prebait taken
Aynho	10	No take
Eydon	14	Ditto
Croughton	12	Ditto
Overthorpe	10	Ditto
Chipping Warden	10	Ditto
Greatworth	8	Ditto
Moreton Pinkney	11	Ditto
Culworth	7	Ditto
Chacombe	10	Ditto
Kings Sutton	15	Ditto
Middleton Cheney	10	Ditto
Sulgrave	7	Ditto

Local Authority Undertakings

No. of treatments at Refuse Tips	10
No. of visits made	45
No. of rat bodies found	191
No. of sewage disposal outfalls treated	5
No. of visits made	20
No. of rat bodies found	6
No. of survey visits made	16
No. of sewer surveys made	22

PANKHURST & SMITH
Printers, Bicester.

